



**Fire Management Program**  
**San Carlos Apache Tribe**  
**San Carlos, Arizona**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Released June 7, 2006 at 1030

**SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION** - The 2,000 plus Bonita Fire, located on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, is now 85% contained as of June 7, 2006. Incident Commander Dennis Logan, and Incident Commander Trainee Duane Chapman, are pleased with the progress made on the lightning-caused fire by Type I Hotshot and local San Carlos Apache Firefighters.

The San Carlos Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead agency. More than 218 fire personnel have helped in the effort to suppress the Bonita Fire, located in the southeast portion of the reservation. The fire has burned grass, brush, oak and juniper in the steep and rocky terrain of Bryce Mountain. The fire is located 80 miles east of San Carlos, AZ and 15 miles north of the city of Safford. The estimated date for total containment is Wednesday, June 7, 2006.

San Carlos Type II Crews 31, 32, 35, 36 and engine and fire use crews are working to mop up the Bonita Fire.

The Bonita Fire was reported to San Carlos Fire Dispatch on Friday, June 2, 2006. With current drought conditions, the potential for wildland fires is heightened. The risk to cultural resources and to the Gila Chub, an endangered fish species, whose habitat is in Bonita Creek, is of primary concern, as well as wildlife habitat, soils and water.

The National Fire Danger Rating for fire activity on the San Carlos Apache Reservation remains VERY HIGH. Weather forecasts for the area call for isolated afternoon thunderstorms over the mountain areas with wind gusts expected.

As of June 6, 2006 at 1800 the Bonita Fire is the only fire on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

If you have any questions concerning fire activity on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, contact Wilbur Belvado, Fire Operations Specialist or Norbert Pechuli, Fire Center Manager at San Carlos Dispatch at (928) 475-2868.